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HOUSE MEMORIAL 31

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010

INTRODUCED BY

Gail Chasey

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF CORRECTIONS TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH THE TASK FORCE APPOINTED TO IMPLEMENT AND DESIGN EFFECTIVE SOLUTIONS FOR THE FEMALE POPULATION IN THE CORRECTIONS SYSTEM.

WHEREAS, the 2008 legislature enacted House Memorial 3 requesting the establishment of a task force to implement the recommendations of Senate Joint Memorial 48, which passed the legislature in 2002; and

WHEREAS, in response to that memorial, the secretary of corrections assembled a task force consisting of the warden of the New Mexico women's correctional facility, the warden of the Camino Nuevo correctional center, representatives from the corrections corporation of America, correctional medical services, the adult probation and parole division of the corrections department, the children, youth and families

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1 department, the New Mexico women's justice project, the
2 commission on the status of women, the archdiocese of Santa Fe,
3 the judiciary, central New Mexico community college, a rape
4 crisis center, the second judicial district attorney's office,
5 community practitioners in behavioral health and substance
6 abuse treatment, former female inmates who have completed their
7 sentences, including any probation or parole, and other
8 interested and appropriate parties; and

9 WHEREAS, much work was accomplished by this task force,
10 including examination of issues related to female inmates and
11 the increasing incarceration and recidivism rates experienced
12 by women; and

13 WHEREAS, the task force also reviewed the environment,
14 programs, services, policies and procedures at the two female
15 correctional facilities, including processes for intake,
16 classification, screening and assessment, discharge planning,
17 vocational skill development, mental health, behavioral health
18 and substance abuse services, interpersonal violence and
19 trauma, parenting and family connections, visitation, gender-
20 informed training protocols, staff training, sexual misconduct
21 and compliance with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act of
22 2003; and

23 WHEREAS, the task force began the process of implementing
24 the recommendations of the national institute of corrections;
25 and

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1 WHEREAS, as requested by the memorial, the task force
2 began to develop community collaborations and partnerships for
3 the purpose of the creation of innovative and unique solutions
4 for the female inmate population and to improve the readiness
5 of women to reintegrate back into their communities; and

6 WHEREAS, such collaborations have been shown to be
7 successful both in New Mexico and throughout the country,
8 despite limited or reduced government resources; and

9 WHEREAS, the current economic climate requires a
10 continuation of innovative, collaborative partnerships between
11 state agencies and community organizations in order to
12 effectively address the needs of women in prison; and

13 WHEREAS, one charge adopted by the task force was to
14 pursue recommendations and solutions to implement gender
15 classification and reentry tools; work toward parole violation
16 reduction; implement a controlled release pilot project;
17 enhance reentry procedures and processes; strengthen the
18 relationship with the interagency behavioral health purchasing
19 collaborative; expand substance abuse treatment to include
20 medication-assisted therapies; explore alternatives to the use
21 of solitary confinement for women; investigate medicaid
22 enrollment for inmates' children; and explore a pilot work
23 release program for women utilizing advanced technology; and

24 WHEREAS, the task force also recommended the use of
25 classification and needs assessment designed for females

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1 through North Pointe, matching risk and needs with gender-
2 specific programs within the correctional facility through
3 COMPAS; continuing collaboration with community reentry
4 efforts; and continuing collaboration with the governor's
5 prison reform task force; and

6 WHEREAS, many of the actions proposed by the task force
7 have not yet been implemented;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
9 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
10 of corrections be requested to continue working with the task
11 force appointed to implement and design effective solutions for
12 the female population in the corrections system; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to
14 continue to pursue the recommendations and solutions already
15 identified and to identify new recommendations and solutions
16 for females in the corrections system; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report on its
18 continued progress as well as any new findings, recommendations
19 and solutions to the appropriate interim legislative committee
20 during the 2010 interim; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the secretary of corrections, the warden of the
23 women's correctional facility in Grants, the warden of the
24 Camino Nuevo correctional center, the corrections corporation
25 of America, the secretary of children, youth and families, the

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1 administrative office of the courts, the second judicial
2 district attorney, the New Mexico women's justice project, the
3 commission on the status of women, the archdiocese of Santa Fe
4 and central New Mexico community college.

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